

(A) Operational staff responsibilities.

(B) Guidelines for content, format, and provision of hydrologic and inundation products developed by the National Water Center.

(C) Procedures for cooperation and coordination between the National Water Center, the National Weather Service National Centers for Environmental Prediction, National Weather Service River Forecast Centers, and National Weather Service Weather Forecast Offices.

(c) **TOTAL WATER PREDICTION.**—The Under Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office of Water Prediction of the National Weather Service, shall—

(1) initiate and lead research and development activities to develop operational water resource prediction and related decision support products;

(2) collaborate with, and provide decision support regarding total water prediction to—

(A) the relevant Federal agencies represented on the National Science and Technology Council, Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability and the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction;

(B) State water resource agencies; and

(C) State and local emergency management agencies; and

(3) in carrying out the responsibilities described in paragraphs (1) and (2), collaboratively develop capabilities necessary for total water predictive capacity, including observations, modeling, data management, supercomputing, social science, and communications.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities under this section amounts as follows:

(1) \$44,500,000 for fiscal year 2021.

(2) \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

(3) \$45,500,000 for fiscal year 2023.

(4) \$46,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

(e) **DERIVATION OF FUNDS.**—Amounts made available to carry out this section shall be derived from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the National Weather Service and the National Ocean Service.

SA 2502. Mr. SULLIVAN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 850, to extend the authorization of appropriations to the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of awarding grants to veterans service organizations for the transportation of highly rural veterans; as follows:

Strike section 3 and insert the following:

SEC. 3. MAKING PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO TRANSPORT INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM FACILITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 111A(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2); and

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1)”.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than five years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on cost savings, performance, and satisfaction of individuals, with respect to—

(A) the transport by the Secretary of individuals under subsection (a) of section 111A of title 38, United States Code; and

(B) the program the establishment of which was facilitated under subsection (b) of such section.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of the effect of emerging health care modalities, including telehealth and VA Video Connect, on—

(A) the transport of individuals described in paragraph (1)(A);

(B) the satisfaction of such individuals with services described in section 111A(a) of title 38, United States Code; and

(C) the program described in paragraph (1)(B).

(3) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

(A) **TELEHEALTH.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “telehealth” means the use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support and promote long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health, and health administration.

(ii) **TECHNOLOGIES.**—For purposes of clause (i), telecommunications technologies include videoconferencing, the internet, streaming media, and terrestrial and wireless communications.

(B) **VA VIDEO CONNECT.**—The term “VA Video Connect” means the program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to connect veterans with their health care team from anywhere, using encryption to ensure a secure and private session.

(c) **TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**—Section 111A(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “veterans’ service organizations” and inserting “veterans service organizations”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. XXX. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 30, 2020, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 30, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 30, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 30, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITY

The Subcommittee on Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 30, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

NATIONAL LANDSLIDE PREPAREDNESS ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 315, S. 529.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 529) to establish a national program to identify and reduce losses from landslide hazards, to establish a national 3D Elevation Program, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Landslide Preparedness Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **3D.**—The term “3D” means 3-dimensional.

(2) **3D ELEVATION DATA.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “3D elevation data” means 3D, high-resolution data obtained using LiDAR, IfSAR, or other methods over the United States (including territories).

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “3D elevation data” includes terrestrial and bathymetric elevation data.

(3) **3D ELEVATION PROGRAM.**—The term “3D Elevation Program” means the 3D Elevation Program established under section 5(a).

(4) **IFSAR.**—The term “IfSAR” means interferometric synthetic aperture radar.

(5) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(6) **LAHAR.**—The term “lahar” means a large debris flow of mostly volcanic material that is—

(A) often fast-moving; and

(B) a hazard in watersheds downstream of volcanic peaks.

(7) **LiDAR.**—The term “LiDAR” means light detection and ranging.

(8) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(9) **STATE.**—The term “State” means—

(A) a State; and

(B) the District of Columbia.

(10) **STATE OFFICE.**—The term “State office” means any unit of State government that handles the identification, mapping, assessment, and research of landslide hazards or responding to landslide events, including—

(A) a State geological survey office;

(B) a State department of emergency response; and

(C) a State department of transportation.

(11) **TERRITORY.**—The term “territory” means—

(A) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(B) Guam;

(C) American Samoa;

(D) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

(E) the Federated States of Micronesia;

(F) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

(G) the Republic of Palau; and

(H) the United States Virgin Islands.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL LANDSLIDE HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish a program, to be known as the “National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program” (referred to in this section as the “program”)—